

**CARSON RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the September 4, 2002 Meeting**

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A regular meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 4, 2002 in the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

**PRESENT:** Chairperson Charles Zimmerman  
Dan Greytak  
Thomas Hall  
David Johnson

**STAFF:** Steve Kastens, Parks and Recreation Director  
Juan Guzman, Open Space Manager  
Vern Krahn, Parks Planner  
Chuck Knowlton, Street Operations Chief  
Vernon Markussen, Certified Arborist  
Kathleen King, Recording Secretary

**NOTE:** A tape recording of these proceedings is on file in the Clerk-Recorder's Office and is available for review and inspection during regular business hours.

**A. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM (1-0001)** - Chairperson Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll was called; a quorum was present. Vice Chairperson Clift was absent.

**B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - August 7, 2002 (1-0006)** - Member Johnson moved to approve the minutes, as submitted. Member Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0017)** - None.

**D. MODIFICATION OF THE AGENDA (1-0022)** - None.

**E. DISCLOSURES (1-0025)** - None.

**F. PUBLIC MEETING:**

**F-1. PRESENTATION ONLY REGARDING THE UPCOMING CARSON CITY KIWANIS CLUB'S CARSON RIVER CLEANUP DAY ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2002 (1-0028)** - Mr. Krahn introduced Ray Frederick, President of the Carson City Kiwanis Club, and provided background information on this item. Mr. Frederick provided an overview of the Cleanup Day schedule as outlined in the August 13, 2002 memo distributed to the Committee members and staff prior to the start of the meeting. Chairperson Zimmerman commended the Kiwanis Club for their cleanup efforts at the River over the years. Mr. Frederick discussed various activities sponsored by the Kiwanis Club throughout the community.

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Mr. Krahn advised that the Carson River Advisory Committee awards ceremony is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on September 21<sup>st</sup>. The awards recipients have been notified of the ceremony and Mr. Krahn requested a Committee volunteer to present the awards. Chairperson Zimmerman volunteered unless another Committee member is interested.

**F-2. UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING THE CARSON CITY STREET DEPARTMENT'S 2002 EFFORTS TO CONTROL NOXIOUS WEEDS WITHIN CARSON CITY AND ALONG THE CARSON RIVER (1-0127)** - Mr. Krahn introduced Mr. Knowlton and Mr. Markussen and provided background information on this item. Mr. Knowlton discussed the efforts of the Carson City Street Department to eradicate tall white top and Russian knapweed. Mr. Markussen referred to a displayed map depicting locations of tall white top in Carson City, and advised that Streets Department staff will be using a GPS unit to determine the success of eradication efforts and locations of additional infestations. He advised that 242 hours were spent spraying weeds in 2001; 360 hours have been spent this year. He discussed the issue of seed distribution by vehicles and wind, and advised that the Eagle Valley Golf Course has one of the largest seed banks in the area. Prison crews will work in an area along Morgan Mill Road, and BLM staff has indicated the possibility of reseeded the area after the weeds are removed.

Mr. Markussen pointed out locations of Russian knapweed on a displayed map. He advised that, although additional infestations of tall white top have been located, efforts to eradicate it are working. He acknowledged that the problem is increasing in inaccessible areas along the River and at the golf courses, but advised that the ranchers have been very cooperative. He discussed concerns regarding the freeway and the possibility that soil infested with tall white top seeds will be used. In response to a question, Mr. Markussen discussed ways the Committee members can assist in the eradication efforts, including location/identification of weeds. Mr. Krahn advised that he would discuss the issue with Transportation Manager John Flansberg, Mr. Knowlton, and Mr. Markussen.

Discussion took place regarding ways to assist in locating and identifying infested areas. In response to a question, Mr. Kastens advised that the Parks Department hires PestMasters to spray that portion of the walking path which is adjacent to the Eagle Valley Golf Course. Mr. Markussen described the efforts of PestMasters to spray the edge of the golf course for hoary cress, bull thistle, nodding thistle, and tall white top. He discussed the success of spraying efforts in the area of Morgan Mill Road near the golf course, and weed pulling efforts near the gabions on Butti Way. Chairperson Zimmerman suggested that once the 2002 mapping is complete, an opportunity will be available to determine how to contain the infestation along the River. He advised that the Committee will look forward to hearing the report.

Member Greytak discussed the mission of the Weed Warriors group which originated in Washoe County and is sponsored by the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension and the Master Gardeners. He suggested the possibility of cooperating with them to do a project in Carson City. Member Johnson requested the Streets Department staff to make an additional presentation in early spring 2003, and suggested that a project could be developed at that time. Mr. Markussen responded to questions regarding the characteristics of tall white top seeds. Mr. Kastens responded to questions regarding available community service crews through the City's Alternative Sentencing Program and the Juvenile Probation Department. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Mr. Knowlton and Mr. Markussen for their presentation.

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**F-3. ACTION TO PROVIDE THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT WITH PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING ISSUES IDENTIFIED AS PART OF THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PINENUT MOUNTAIN PLAN UPDATE (1-0473)** - [Chairperson Zimmerman recessed the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and reconvened at 6:34 p.m.] Mr. Guzman introduced Tom Crawford, Team Leader for the Bureau of Land Management Pine Nut Mountains Plan Update. Mr. Guzman advised of having presented the recommendations outlined in the staff report to the Open Space Advisory Committee (“OSAC”) and the Parks and Recreation Commission (“PRC”), and receiving their input. He advised that the purpose of the presentations is to provide the BLM with general, broad statements of Carson City’s positions on the issues contained in the plan. He provided an overview of the comments and suggestions offered by the OSAC and PRC members, and advised of the PRC’s suggestion to schedule a joint meeting between the three committees.

Mr. Guzman referred to the Pre-Plan Analysis and Project Management Plan included in the agenda materials and discussed the public meeting process in which he has participated as the City’s representative. He pointed out the Pine Nut Mountains Plan area in relation to the Carson River, as depicted on a displayed map. He reviewed the recommendations outlined in the staff report and advised of the comments received from the OSAC and the PRC with regard to mineral extraction operations. He discussed the City’s interest in development of the V&T corridor, and advised that he has kept this before the BLM. He pointed out properties to be nominated as part of Round IV of the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act on the displayed map.

Mr. Guzman displayed the Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail Map, and reviewed the recommendations regarding access. He discussed the suggestion by plan update participants to request that the BLM construct a new road which would access a flat area for off road vehicle staging. He advised that feedback from the OSAC and the PRC indicates no desire for any new roads unless absolutely necessary. He discussed the BLM’s three categories of roads, and the recommendation to designate existing roads within the “limited access” category. Mr. Crawford provided additional detail on the limited access category. In response to a question, he advised that the limited category applies to roads which currently exist unless there are many in the same area accommodating the same use. Mr. Guzman advised that the feedback received indicates the Committees are interested in taking inventory of existing roads and providing input to the BLM accordingly. In response to a question regarding enforcement, Mr. Crawford advised that this would be “the next step.” Discussions have taken place with regard to forming neighborhood watch groups, the possibility of funding a park ranger in conjunction with the City, the possibility of working with the Carson City Sheriff’s Office, etc. Mr. Crawford acknowledged concerns regarding the BLM’s lack of enforcement ability within urban interface areas and that, if access restrictions are imposed, enforcement will have to be stepped up. Mr. Guzman advised that BLM rangers are not empowered to patrol Carson City parks; however, the City’s park ranger patrols BLM lands which are adjacent to City property as part of his regular duties. Mr. Guzman discussed the importance of education for the next generation of users, and advised that many of the off road user groups are willing to invest time in education programs. Additional suggestions have included improved signage which more clearly explains violation penalties.

Mr. Guzman reviewed the Recreational, Visual, and Scenic Resources Recommendation. He relayed the input provided by Supervisor Jon Plank regarding the valuable sand in Brunswick Canyon. Discussion took place regarding access issues associated with Brunswick Canyon. In response to a question, Mr. Guzman described

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the three classes of minerals designated by the BLM, and advised that sand and gravel would not be included in the mineral extraction withdrawal ordered by the Secretary of the Interior.

Mr. Guzman reviewed the Fire Management and the Off-Highway Vehicle Use and Management Recommendations. He advised that the input provided by the OSAC and PRC members indicates concern regarding the proliferation of hillside scarring. He clarified that the Committee members are not in favor of limiting off-road access, but would like to see it designated. In addition, a suggestion was made to segregate conflicting uses, such as off-road vehicles and hikers.

Member Johnson expressed agreement with scheduling a joint meeting between the three committees. In response to a question regarding the time table, Mr. Crawford advised that he is compiling the comments received from planning partner meetings, scoping meetings, pre-scoping meetings, county commission meetings, etc. The BLM planning team will soon be writing the proposed plan from which alternatives on both sides of the proposed action will be developed. He advised that the BLM is willing to work with groups to ensure that the necessary input is received to accommodate and account for the desires of the communities which have lands abutting BLM lands. Vegetation studies and trails inventories are currently being conducted. Mr. Crawford advised that scoping comments and public input are always welcome, but "the sooner the better." Mr. Guzman acknowledged that City staff intends to move forward through the advisory committees and present a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors accordingly. Once the Board of Supervisors has provided input, Carson City will present an official position toward the preliminary issues addressed in the plan. The advantage to providing input at this time is that it can be considered as the BLM writes the draft plan. With the consensus of the Committee, Chairperson Zimmerman requested staff to organize and schedule a joint meeting with the OSAC and the PRC.

Member Hall advised that there are many east/west connecting roads in the portion of the Pine Nut Mountains south of Lloyd's Bridge. There are only two primary north/south roads: Mexican Dam Road and the Pole Line Road, which is primarily used by motorcycle riders. Member Hall advised that Mexican Dam Road from Lloyd's Bridge going south and connecting with the old Johnson Lane Road is being used more and more which has resulted in deterioration. He advised that the City paved a portion of Mexican Dam Road "which has made a wonderful difference." The portion that isn't paved has badly deteriorated, and enforcement is virtually non-existent. Mr. Guzman advised that the plan calls for a connection between the northern and southern portions of the Pine Nuts, which he pointed out on the displayed map. He indicated that the question to be addressed is whether or not to request the BLM to establish the connection. Member Hall explained that part of the problem is private land up to the Pole Line Road, and that the only place for an additional road would be above the Pole Line Road which involves additional canyons and makes establishing a new road more difficult. He suggested that the plan cannot expect to funnel traffic through a residential area, and Mr. Guzman agreed that this would be unreasonable. Mr. Guzman pointed out existing BLM property, the River, the Pole Line Road, and advised that there should be an area near the Pole Line Road to establish an access that will meet the users' needs. He suggested that the organized user groups "know how to behave, where to go, and what to do." The problem seems to be with younger users who live near the area. Extensive discussion took place regarding responsibility for maintenance of Mexican Dam Road.

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In response to a question regarding accesses proposed for Douglas and Lyon Counties, Mr. Crawford advised that he will be happy to share information as it becomes available. He indicated that neither Lyon nor Douglas County have presented a plan regarding accesses; however, the BLM will be working with both counties on such topics. He commented that Carson City has been very proactive in establishing staging areas and access corridors. Mr. Guzman discussed various issues and concerns raised by residents of Lyon County over BLM disposal of land for additional development and the Native Horse Sanctuary program. Douglas County residents have expressed concern over active use of BLM land by off road vehicle users and additional land disposal by the BLM.

**F-4. DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING THE FIELD TRIP ON MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2002 TO THE NORTHERN NEVADA CORRECTIONAL CENTER TO VISIT WITH DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS STAFF AND REVIEW HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECTS ON PRISON PROPERTY (1-1285)** - Mr. Krahn provided background information on this item. Member Hall expressed surprise over the extent of the operation. Chairperson Zimmerman commented that the programs generate revenue at the same time as preserving and improving River habitat which is a tribute to Department of Corrections staff. Mr. Krahn expressed appreciation for the cooperation of prison staff. Chairperson Zimmerman thanked Mr. Krahn for helping to organize the field trip.

**G. COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS (1-1331)** - None.

**H. DISCUSSION REGARDING FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMITTEE MEMBER STATUS REPORTS (1-1335)** - Chairperson Zimmerman advised that he and Member Greytak will be meeting with City Engineer Larry Werner to discuss hydrology issues within the City which may eventually become an agenda item. Mr. Krahn acknowledged that Kevin Walsh may present comments and information regarding the Pine Nut Mountains Plan Update.

Mr. Kastens advised of having talked to Human Resources Department staff who indicated they have received no applications for the vacancies on the Committee. He discussed the particular difficulty in finding an applicant who would qualify for the "20-acre property owner" position, and suggested that the Committee consider agendaizing discussion to change the membership criteria.

**I. STATUS REPORTS FROM STAFF (1-1438)** - None.

**J. ADJOURNMENT (1-1441)** - Member Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m. Member Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

The Minutes of the September 4, 2002 meeting of the Carson River Advisory Committee are so approved this \_\_\_\_ day of October, 2002.

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CHARLES ZIMMERMAN, Chair